

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

Advisory Committee on Special Studies Relating to the Possible Long-Term Health Effects of Phenoxy Herbicides and Contaminants (Ranch Hand Advisory Committee); Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

This notice announces a forthcoming meeting of a public advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The meeting will be open to the public.

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Special Studies Relating to the Possible Long-Term Health Effects of Phenoxy Herbicides and Contaminants (Ranch Hand Advisory Committee).

General Function of the Committee: To advise the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary for Health concerning its oversight of the conduct of the Ranch Hand study by the U.S. Air Force and provide scientific oversight of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Army Chemical Corps Vietnam Veterans Health Study, and other studies in which the Secretary or the Assistant Secretary for Health believes involvement by the committee is desirable.

Date and Time: The meeting will be held on November 14, 2001, from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., and November 15, 2001, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: Holiday Inn Select, 8120 Wisconsin Ave., Maryland Room, Bethesda, MD.

Contact: Leonard Schechtman, National Center for Toxicology Research (HFT-10), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-6696, or FDA Advisory Committee Information Line, 1-800-741-8138 (301-443-0572 in the Washington, DC area), code 12560. Please call the Information Line for up-to-date information on this meeting.

Agenda: The U.S. Air Force will present information on: Data release; cancer incidence; area under the curve; matched diabetes graphs; memory loss and peripheral neuropathy; thyroid abnormalities; and Seveso and Ranch Hand TCDD Half-Life. The Veterans Administration will provide an update on: The VA Army Chemical Corps Vietnam-Era Health Study including status of recruitment, interviewing, and

medical record retrieval; documentation of self-reported health outcomes; results of serum dioxin analysis; and preliminary results of survey data analysis.

Procedure: Interested persons may present data, information, or views, orally or in writing, on issues pending before the committee. Written submissions may be made to the contact person by November 2, 2001. Oral presentations from the public will be scheduled on November 15, 2001, between approximately 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Time allotted for each presentation may be limited. Those desiring to make formal oral presentations should notify the contact person before November 2, 2001, and submit a brief statement of the general nature of the evidence or arguments they wish to present, the names and addresses of proposed participants, and an indication of the approximate time requested to make their presentation.

Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. 2).

Dated: October 4, 2001.

Linda A. Suydam,

Senior Associate Commissioner.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Receipt of Application To Amend West Fork Timber Company's Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit for Western Washington To Include Canada Lynx and Bull Trout

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public, other agencies, and Tribes that the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received a request to add Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) to the list of species covered by Endangered Species Act incidental take permit PRT-777837, issued to the West Fork Timber Company, LLC (formerly Murray Pacific Corporation). This request is provided for under the Implementation Agreement for the Habitat Conservation Plan (Plan) accompanying the incidental take permit, dated September 24, 1993, and the Amendment to the Implementation Agreement, dated June 26, 1995. This request applies to forest management activities on West Fork Timber Company lands located in the

Mineral Block of eastern Lewis County, west of the Cascade Mountain Range in the State of Washington (covered lands). The purpose of this notice is to seek comments from the public, other agencies, and Tribes on the Service's proposed permit amendment. We specifically request that comments be focused on substantive information relevant to bull trout and Canada lynx that could affect the Service's decision to amend this permit.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before November 15, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments and requests for further information should be addressed to Ms. Andrea LaTier, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 510 Desmond Drive, SE., Suite 102, Lacey, Washington, 98503, phone (360) 753-9593, fax (360) 753-9518.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Document Availability

All documents cited in this notice and comments received will be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday) at the office listed under **ADDRESSES**.

Background

On September 24, 1993, the Service issued incidental take permit PRT-777837 (permit) to the West Fork Timber Company (West Fork), pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1532 *et seq.*). The Plan and an Environmental Assessment associated with the original permit decision analyzed the effects that implementing the Plan would have on listed and unlisted species. The original permit authorized incidental take of the threatened northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), in the course of otherwise legal forest management activities within the range of the northern spotted owl that occurs on the covered lands. This permit was amended on June 26, 1995, to authorize incidental take of listed species, in addition to the owl, that may occur on West Fork lands covered under the permit, with an Amendment to the Plan and an associated Environmental Assessment, which analyzed the effects to habitats of listed and unlisted species expected to result from amending West Fork's permit. Species covered by this first amendment to the permit included the marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus marmoratus*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos* = *U.a. horribilis*), and gray wolf (*Canis lupus*).